

HOPEWELL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'A Place to Find Hope and Be Well'

20220 Hopewell Road

Mount Vernon, OH 43050

*Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ
and minister to the needs of others in His name.*

April - May 2019

Pastor's Ponderings -- Pastor Lee Cubie

He Is Risen!

Easter is drawing nigh. Soon churches will be gathering around their fires holding candles for their sunrise services. We all will say, "He is risen!" Followed by, "He is risen indeed!" Then people will go in to share a breakfast. Followed by an Easter service with a Sermon about the crucifixion and the resurrection. So how do we participate in the event of the cross and the resurrection?

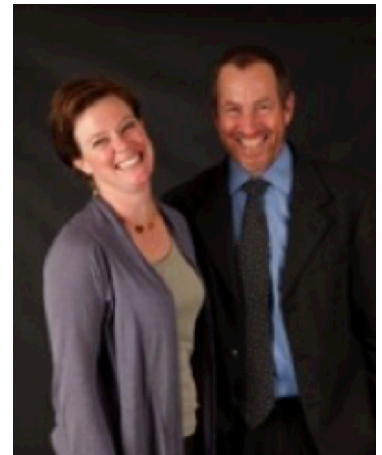
When I read the New Testament, I hear the writers saying that the cross was about obedience. The complete and total obedience of Jesus of Nazareth to the will of the Father. For this reason, all three synoptic gospels record Jesus praying on the Mount of Olives. Mark writes,

"And they went to a place which was called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I pray." And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt." (Mark 14:32-37)

The author of Hebrews, in working with this time of prayer writes,

"In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned *obedience* through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of all eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 5:7-10)

From these passages we can see that the crucifixion was about perfecting the obedience of Jesus. This obedience was about becoming the Christ who would begin the restoration of the world and the end of the old order of death and decay. Jesus encourages us to take up our cross: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow

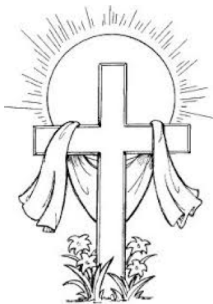


me.” (Luke 9:23) In other words he is encouraging us to learn obedience, so we too would be able to help restore the broken relationship between a loving God and a rebellious mankind. This is necessary. But unfortunately, we tend to look at carrying our cross as just about suffering. When we do this, we tend to forget about Easter.

So how did Jesus see the cross and Easter? In Hebrews we learn that “Jesus..., who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of God on the throne.” (Heb. 12:2) We have a good understanding of the shame of the cross, which the sinless one would take on our sinfulness, never mind the pain he endured. But what is “the joy that was set before him”? Was it the idea that he got to go back to heaven and be with dear old dad, sitting “at the right hand of the throne of God”? I don’t think so. I think Jesus had something else in mind. If we open our Bibles to Luke 13, we find three parables Jesus tells in response to the Pharisees and scribes looking down their noses at the life Jesus was leading. They comment, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” (Luke 15:2b) This must not be the only time that this comment was made, for we hear Jesus in Luke 7 quoting his detractors, “Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” (Luke 7:34b) So, what is this joy that was set before Jesus that he endured the cross? According to the parables in chapter 15, it was for the prospect of hanging out with you and me!

Let me explain this. The three parables are all about the restoration of someone who is lost; that is, they are unable to change their circumstances. The first is Jesus the shepherd forgoing hardship to find a lost sheep. The second one is of a woman who loses a silver coin and searches her home from top to bottom. She takes on the cost of lighting an expensive lamp and sweeping her home with diligence until she finds it. Showing the diligence of the Holy Spirit in searching for a way to retrieve you and me. The third parable is one we are most familiar with--the parable of the Prodigal Son. This parable tells of a loving father who keeps hope and searches the horizon for the return of his youngest son. In all three parables after the restoration of what was lost there is celebration and joy at having brought back into loving communion those relationships that were broken by sin. This is the joy that inspired Jesus to endure the cross. It is the joy of loving relationships restored.

Paul in his letter to the Philippians expresses joy. He is joyful to be in loving communion with the people in the church at Philippi. Time and again he expresses this joy. And so, we read, “... in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel...” (Phil. 1:4-5) And, “...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” (2:2) Again, “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice.” (4:4) Paul time and again writes about his joy in being united in Jesus Christ with the Philippians. And being united in sharing the gospel of Jesus.



It is not only Paul who writes about joy in this way. The apostle John writes in his first epistle, “...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.” (1 John 1:3-4)

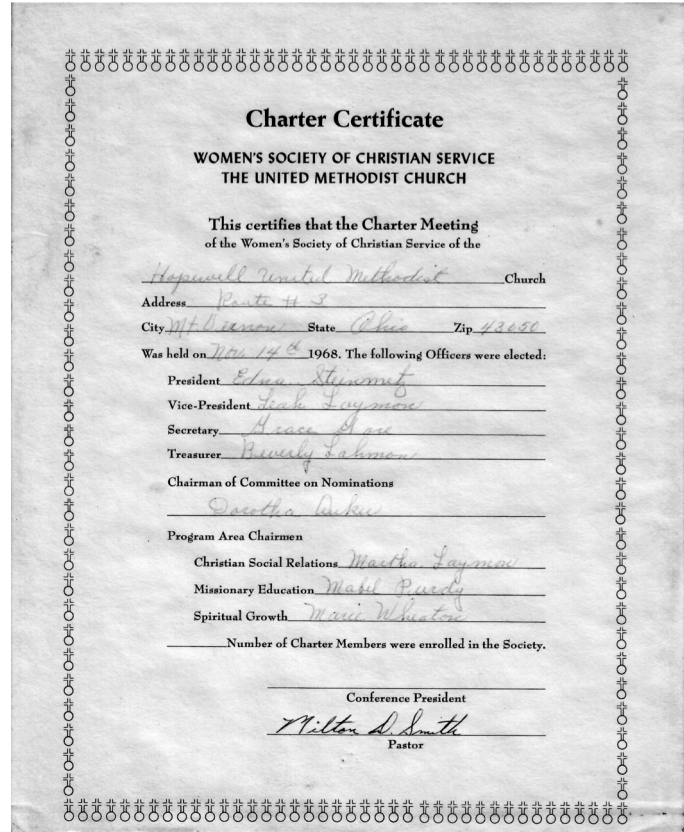
In all of this we are encouraged by Jesus to carry our cross so we may bring joy that comes in a loving relationship with God into the world. So, when say the words, “He is risen, he is risen indeed,” we are proclaiming to the world and to one another, that we are united in love with the Father, the Son, through the Spirit, and united with one another. And we seek to make our joy complete with sharing this loving bond with the world.

United Methodist Women Report – Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

The UMW met at Jake's Restaurant on Tuesday, March 12 for lunch. Five members and two guests were present. Barb Butler gave the blessing. Marsha Clayborne read a thank you card from Virginia Skinner for the flowers she received while in the hospital. The group talked about the refreshments they were going to prepare for the Scioto Ridge Boys concert on March 17. Barb announced that the annual spring meeting would be held at Gay Street United Methodist Church on April 6. The next get-together will be in April.

In the back room of the church, Bill Lawhon found, and shared with the UMW, a framed certificate--the charter of the "Women's Society of Christian Service [of] The United Methodist Church." The charter lists the names of WSCS officers, including Treasurer Beverly Lahmon, who were elected in 1968. The frame will be displayed at the Hopewell church in a place of UMW's choosing. [Ed. note: Women's service in the Methodist church dates back at least 150 years with the formation of the Women's Foreign Missionary Service in 1869. The 1968 HUMC certificate coincides with the merger year of the worldwide Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist denominations. "WSCS" became the United Methodist Women in 1972. For more UMW history, see

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/about/history/timeline.>]



Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Report – Elaine Farie, Chair

Our PPR Committee met and completed the "Annual Clergy Assessment and Action Plan" as required every year. We are submitting it to our Three Rivers District Superintendent, Dr. Bradley Call, this week along with the recently formulated "Congregational Goals" and "Membership Plan." Remember – PPR stands for Pastor-Parish Relations, which includes every member of our congregation. God has truly blessed us with Pastor Lee and each of you.

Nursing Outreach Ministry – Elaine Farie

We are scheduling an opportunity for everyone interested to learn and become skilled at: Adult CPR, First Aid, and use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

The class will be held at our local American Red Cross, 200 Mulberry St., Mount Vernon, on Saturday, April 13 starting at 9:00 AM. Cost of the Adult Class is \$80.00, for Adult and Pediatric CPR it is \$100.00.

For more information or signing up, please call Elaine Farie: 740-502-9858. Please attend – we never know when those skills will be needed.



The Dogwood Tree – *Marsha Clayborne*

Three years ago on May 1, 2016, the UMW dedicated a new dogwood tree commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Hopewell UMC building. The tree continues to thrive and grow more beautiful near the northwest corner of the church.

When Christ was on earth,
 The dogwood grew to a
 Towering size with a lovely hue.
 Its branches were strong and interwoven
 And for Christ's cross
 Its timbers were chosen.
 Being distressed at the use of its wood.
 Christ made a promise
 Which still holds good:
 "Not ever again shall the dogwood grow
 To be large enough for such a tree,
 And so slender and twisted
 It shall always be with cross-shaped
 Blossoms for all to see.
 The petals shall have bloodstains
 Marked in brown and in the
 Blossom's center a thorny crown.
 All who see it will think of Me,
 Nailed to a cross from the dogwood tree.
 Protected and cherished this tree shall be
 A reflection to all of my agony."
 --Author unknown



Preach Christ (the Gospel) at all times; if necessary, use words.

--Sometimes attributed to St. Francis
 of Assisi

HURT PEOPLE HURT PEOPLE.
 THAT'S HOW PAIN PATTERNS
 GETS PASSED ON, GENERATION
 AFTER GENERATION AFTER
 GENERATION. BREAK THE CHAIN
 TODAY. MEET ANGER WITH
 SYMPATHY, CONTEMPT WITH
 COMPASSION, CRUELTY WITH
 KINDNESS. GREET GRIMACES
 WITH SMILES. FORGIVE AND
 FORGET ABOUT FINDING FAULT.
 LOVE IS THE WEAPON OF THE
 FUTURE.

Birthdays

April

2 Adam Lawhon

May

3 Addison Smith
 7 Bitsi Gourley
 7 Josh Laymon
 12 Phyllis Gourley
 12 Emma Laymon
 19 John Wolfe
 19 Amanda Wells
 30 Kathleen Burt

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What is the Revised Common Lectionary? – from the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

[Ed. note: The Revised Common Lectionary is the source of Bible readings used weekly in Hopewell adult Sunday school studies and in worship services. The 2019 Lectionary can be found at the following Web site (see example below): <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/2019-revised-common-lectionarysundays-special-days-only/>]

The Revised Common Lectionary is a three-year cycle of weekly lections [Bible readings] used to varying degrees by the vast majority of mainline Protestant churches in Canada and the United States. The RCL is built around the seasons of the Church Year, and includes four lections for each Sunday, as well as additional readings for major feast days. During most of the year, the lections are: a reading from the Hebrew Bible, a Psalm, a reading from the Epistles, and a Gospel reading. During the season of Easter, the Hebrew Bible lection is usually replaced with one from the Acts of the Apostles. The lections from the Hebrew Bible are sometimes chosen from the Apocrypha.

The seasons of the Church Year reflect the life of Christ. Consequently, the gospel lections for each Sunday provide the focus for that day. The other lections for a given day generally have a thematic relationship to the gospel reading for that day, although this is not always the case. In Ordinary Time, the Revised Common Lectionary offers two sets of readings for the lessons from the Hebrew Bible. One set proceeds mostly continuously, giving the story of the Patriarchs and the Exodus in Year A, the monarchical narratives in Year B, and readings from the Prophets in Year C. In the other set of readings for Ordinary Time, the readings from the Hebrew Bible are thematically related to the gospel lections. Denominations or local churches generally use either the semi-continuous readings or the thematic readings during Ordinary Time. They do not typically move back and forth between the two over the course of a single season.

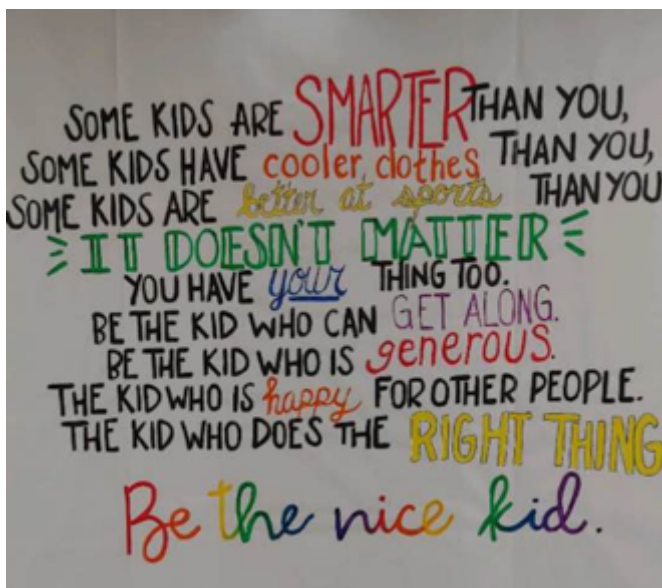
The gospel readings for each year come from one of the synoptic gospels according to the following pattern:

- Year A - Matthew
- Year B - Mark
- Year C – Luke [2019 is Year C.]

April 21, 2019	Easter Day	April 22: Earth Day	White or Gold
Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2,14-24		April 25: World Malaria Day	
(UMH 839); 1 Cor 15:19-26; Jn 20:1-18 or Lk 24:1-12		Apr. 26: Arbor Day	

Readings from the Gospel of John can be found throughout the RCL.

[Next month: Who compiled the Revised Common Lectionary...and how?]



This could be read a second time, inserting "Adults" for "Kids."

"When ministry becomes performance, then the sanctuary becomes a theater, the congregation becomes an audience, worship becomes entertainment, and man's applause and approval become the measure of success. But when ministry is for the glory of God, his presence moves into the sanctuary. Even the unsaved visitor will fall down on his face, worship God, and confess that God is among us." (1 Corinthians 14:25).
- Warren and David Wiersbe



Hopewell Family Photos



Leah and Natalie Gourley provided special music for the worship service on 2/10/2019. HUMC Pianist Cheryl McCracken inspected and approved of their work.

Below: Pastor Lee Cubie illustrated, with a rope, how God's grace draws us to him. Jack and Sam Laymon assisted.



Hopewell UMC welcomed new members on 2/10/19. From left: Mike and Wendy Cedoz, Bob Cornwell, Jack Laymon, Dave Holl, Emma Laymon, Sam Laymon, Joe Laymon, Josh Laymon, and Jade Laymon. This is without doubt the largest membership class in several decades.

Right: At least 17 youth attended the worship service on 3/24/19! In addition to the 10 seen here there were more in pews to the left and right.



"Humor is the universal solvent against the abrasive elements of life." --Sen. Alan Simpson, at the funeral of George H. W. Bush

Pontius' Puddle



Important Meeting Dates

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the following meetings after worship services:

April 7 - Church Council meeting, called quarterly by council President Bill Lawhon. The essential business of the church is conducted, and committees will briefly report on their activities, at this meeting.

April 14 - Potluck brunch and Vision meeting. The Vision discussion will focus on **youth programming, and especially Vacation Bible School (VBS) planning**. With the growth in youth participation (at least 17 youth were in worship on March 24!), there is an exceptional opportunity to help our youth—and others in the community— grow in their understanding of the Bible and of what it means to be a Christian. A successful VBS experience involves many members of the church family in a variety of ways...to be discussed at the meeting. This session will be preceded by a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share; beverages and table service will be provided.



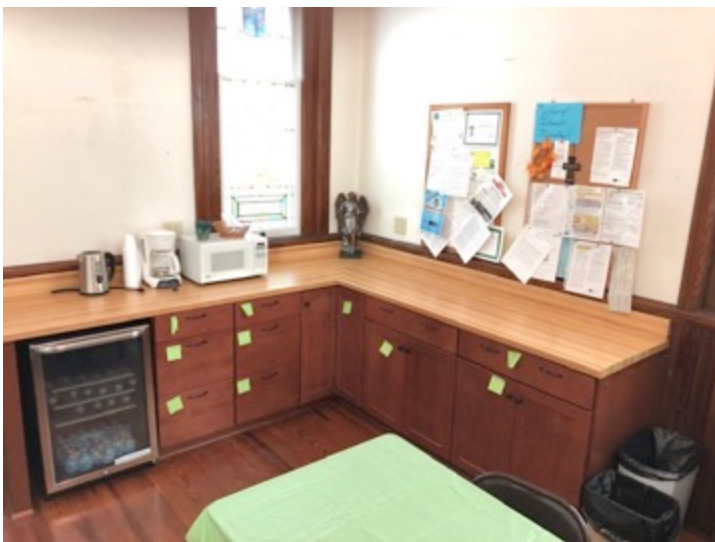
Everyone is encouraged to be part of these special sessions.

More Hopewell Family Photos



Isaac Hartney, 5, won the Master Builder award for the car he built with Legos. A first year Cub Scout, he is the son of Adam and Jessica Hartney and the grandson of Barb Butler.

This beautiful stained-glass window is 103 years old, purchased with funds from a "Junior Bible Class."



Many thanks to the HUMC trustees for the purchase and installation of attractive, functional cabinetry, including a small refrigerator, in the overflow/Sunday school/all-purpose room. Also, new lights have been installed in this room and the sanctuary. Next task: drawer labeling.

April 2019

◀ Mar 2019

May 2019 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Humor Month National Kite Month National Poetry Month National Welding Month	1 April Fool's Day Internat'l Fun at Work Day	2 Children's Book Day B'day: Adam Lawhon	3 Don't Go to Work Unless It's Fun Day	4 School Librarian Day	5 National Dandelion Day	6 Plan Your Epitaph Day
7 World Health Day No Housework Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Church Council	8 Zoo Lover's Day	9 Winston Churchill Day	10 National Siblings Day	11 Barbership Quartet Day	12 Walk on Your Wild Side Day	13 Scrabble Day
14 Palm Sunday 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/ Refreshments 10:30 Potluck lunch 11:30 Vision Meeting	15 Patriot's Day	16 Tax Day	17 Bat Appreciation Day	18 International Juggler's Day 6 PM Maundy Thursday "Love Feast"	19 Good Friday	20 Husband Appreciation Day
21 Easter 7:00 Sunrise Service 7:45 Breakfast 8:30 Worship/Communion	22 Earth Day	23 Take a Chance Day	24 Administrative Professionals Day	25 Take Your Daughter to Work Day	26 Arbor Day	27 Tell a Story Day
28 International Astronomy Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	29 National Shrimp Scampi Day	30 Hairstyle Appreciation Day				

May 2019							Jun 2019 ▶
◀ Apr 2019	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Foster Care Month Nat'l Blood Pressure Month National Bike Month Older Americans Month				1 May Day Save the Rhino Day	2 Brothers and Sisters Day	3 International Tuba Day World Press Freedom Day	4 Star Wars Day
5 Cinco De Mayo 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	6 National Nurses Day	7 National Teachers Day B'day: Blisi Gourley B'day: Josh Laymon	8 No Socks Day World Red Cross Day	9 Lost Sock Memorial Day	10 Military Spouses Day Clean up Your Room Day	11 Eat What You Want Day Twilight Zone Day	
12 Mother's Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/ Refreshments B'day: Phyllis Gourley B'day: Emma Laymon	13 Leprechaun Day	14 Dance Like a Chicken Day	15 Police Officer's Memorial Day	16 Wear Purple for Peace Day	17 National Bike to Work Day	18 Armed Forces Day Visit Your Relatives Day	
19 Boy's Club Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: John Wolfe B'day: Amanda Wells	20 Pick Strawberries Day Victoria Day (Canada)	21 National Memo Day	22 Buy a Musical Instrument Day	23 Lucky Penny Day	24 National Escargot Day	25 National Wine Day International Jazz Day	
26 Sally Rice Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	27 Memorial Day Observed	28 National Hamburger Day	29 Learn about Composting Day	30 Memorial Day B'day: Kathleen Burt	31 Save Your Hearing Day		

Hopewell United Methodist Church
 c/o Bob & Linda Joseph, newsletter editors
 241 Valleybrook Circle
 Howard, OH 43028



Calendar of Selected Events/Activities

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 7 | Communion Sunday; Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Bring food for Interchurch pantry; Church Council meeting, 10:30 |
| Sunday, April 14 | Palm Sunday--Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Potluck lunch, 10:30 AM, followed by Vision meeting |
| Sunday, Apr 21 | Easter sunrise service, 7 AM; Breakfast (bring a food item to share); 7:45 AM; Worship, 8:30 AM; Bring food for Interchurch pantry |
| Sunday, Apr 28 | Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Refreshments |
| Sunday, May 5 | Communion Sunday; Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Bring food for Interchurch pantry |
| Sunday, May 12 | Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Refreshments |
| Sunday, May 19 & 26 | Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM |